

Written Testimony of David Henri, New Hartford CT resident, Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee, March 15, 2011 concerning SENATE BILL 1, AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY POLICY AND FINANCE.

I have been a solar design and sales consultant for over 5 years. Having been unable to close enough sales in the CT solar market I now commute to MA. There I sell solar electric systems for the Wilbraham Home Depot. The Home Depot carries solar in MA, NY, PA and NJ, but not in CT. If a Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) program is begun in CT, then The Home Depot might start carrying solar electric systems. The SREC approach is the major reason for the proven success in NJ, and last year it has been started in MA and PA with very good results.

Another part of the bill that I really support is Virtual Net Metering. This would be great for community solar projects. I can not tell you how many times I have to tell people that there home is not well suited for solar. Not enough roof space, facing the wrong direction, or too much shade, it just won't work well here. Concerned, responsible CT citizens willing to make the investment in solar are being turned away every day. If they could buy into a community solar project along with other people they would do so. Then their portion of a community solar system would be placed in the best sunny location to maximize the incentives that the rate and tax payers have given. It is simple to meter the solar electricity and is just a clerical matter of giving credit for the power put onto the grid towards the participants' electric bill.

As I write this testimony I am listening to translated Japanese news television broadcast on the disabled nuclear reactors. By the time you read this, I fear that the situation may have gotten severely worst. Let us not forget the gulf oil spill last summer. Or the CT roofs that have stood for over a hundred years, collapsing in "unusual weather", perhaps the result of fossil fuel induced climate change. Millions of our CT energy dollars are leaving the states economy and supporting questionable overseas regimes. We would be fooling ourselves if we thought that there would not be more energy related disasters or conflicts. We need to do as much as possible to bring safe clean solar on line as soon as possible.